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President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

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In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (A/71/66-E/2016/11)

1. **Mr. Acharya** (Under-Secretary-General, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) (A/71/66-E/2016/11), said that progress towards meeting the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action had been mixed. Over the past five years, least developed countries had made continued progress towards graduation from the least developed country category, with 10 least developed countries currently at some stage in the graduation process. However, most had not met the targets on human and social development.

2. In order to reach Goal 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, increased efforts and concrete actions in the priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action were imperative from the perspective of the least developed countries and the international community. Structural transformation in least developed countries was a precondition for sustainable and equitable growth and poverty eradication. In that respect, increased agricultural productivity was crucial. Greater focus on rural areas was needed and a comprehensive support package should be provided to boost output. There was a need for enhanced access to finance and technology, and improved market access through enhanced infrastructure for all, including women, youth and the marginalized population.

3. Employment creation, as the means to achieve meaningful and sustainable improvement in living standards in least developed countries, should be the objective of macroeconomic policies. Bottlenecks in such areas as technical and vocational education and training would need to be addressed. Least developed countries needed to raise output growth and increase the labour intensity of growth. Inclusive and sustainable industrialization and development of the services sector therefore played equally important roles.

4. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states would remain greatly constrained in their efforts to eradicate poverty, structurally transform their economies, increase productive capacity, unleash sustained growth and realize the Sustainable Development Goals, without rapidly building national capacities in science, technology and innovation. Efforts had thus been stepped up towards the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries by 2017. The Secretary-General had recently appointed several leading science, technology and innovation experts to serve on the interim governing council of the Technology Bank.

5. Least developed countries had made some progress in domestic resource mobilization, but required enhanced support in that regard. The tax base in least developed countries could only be significantly enhanced through productive capacity-building and inclusive growth. Revenue needed to be raised, the effects of new taxes needed to be properly understood and financial support was needed to support Goal 10 of the Sustainable Development Goal to reduce inequality within and among countries.

6. Least developed countries would need external finance for their development for the foreseeable future. However, official development assistance (ODA) to least developed countries had declined since 2011, and the average share of ODA to least developed countries as a percentage of gross national income (GNI) of Development Assistance Committee donors had been only 0.09 per cent in 2015. Development partners must fulfil their commitment to provide the equivalent of 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their GNI in ODA to least developed countries and to allocate a higher share of their total ODA to those countries. More diverse foreign direct investment (FDI) flows were needed to provide a conducive environment for the private sector.

7. While least developed countries had contributed very little to climate change, most were contributing to mitigation. In order to adapt to the effects of climate

change, least developed countries required financial support, access to technology and capacity-building. Relevant funds, including the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, must be adequately financed. Expanded trade, investment and development financing among members of the global South could play a very important role for sustainable growth. South-South and triangular cooperation must be deepened and scaled up.

8. The monitoring processes of the different agendas should be as closely aligned as possible, in order to avoid duplication and excessive burden on national systems. His Office was working with relevant United Nations agencies to produce a report on synthesizing the Sustainable Development Goals and the Istanbul Programme of Action, so as to reduce the reporting burden of the least developed countries.

9. During the comprehensive global midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the need for accelerated implementation of the agreed actions had been stressed. The firm commitment of the international community to give special attention to least developed countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda had been reiterated. The commitment to the full, effective and timely implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda and to their mainstreaming into national development policies and programmes in the least developed countries had also been reaffirmed. Many participants had stressed that national leadership and ownership with a multi-stakeholder approach played a key role in driving and implementing the Agenda. However, given their financial, human and institutional constraints, least developed countries would seek continued strengthening of effective and comprehensive partnerships in all areas.

10. During the private sector forum on investment opportunities in least developed countries, the challenges and opportunities in attracting sustainable direct investment had been highlighted. Parliamentarians from least developed countries and other participating countries had reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and their determination to take account of the Programme in national laws and regional parliamentary forums.

11. The outcome document of the review suggested consideration of improvements to the effectiveness of food reserve mechanisms for least developed countries. Collaboration across many initiatives in that area should be strengthened and further commitments should be made to support strong social, economic and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national, regional and local development planning. The commitment to allocate a higher share of aid for trade to least developed countries had been reiterated, in order to strengthen the export potential of least developed countries and help them overcome supply-side constraints. In the meantime, policies should aim to channel a higher share of total ODA to least developed countries. The impact of ODA would have a multiplier effect if a higher share of ODA went towards developing productive capacity building, leveraging more resources for infrastructure development and energy, and mobilizing domestic resources.

12. The comprehensive global midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action had stressed the need for enhanced measures at both the national and international levels to mitigate and manage risk and address the vulnerability of the least developed countries to various kinds of shocks and crises. A study would thus be undertaken on crisis mitigation and resilience-building for least developed countries. An investment promotion regime for least developed countries would also be considered by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

13. In the report of the Secretary-General and the outcome document of the review, the need to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels had been stressed, in order to accelerate progress towards structural transformation, resilience-building and sustainable development in the least developed countries. While significant progress had been made, the least developed countries needed greater support in order to meet the goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action and enable at least half of them to graduate from the least developed country category by 2020.

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti

14. **Mr. Grant** (Chair, Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti), presenting the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2016/79), said that the overall

political, economic and social situation in Haiti was of concern. Political uncertainty had resulted in a decline in investment, the inability of the international financial institutions to initiate loans and failure to meet the terms of existing loans. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti called for free and fair elections to be held without delay and for the political actors of Haiti to assume their responsibilities to enable the country to return to constitutional governance as soon as possible. The Haitian economy and society had also been affected by the El Niño phenomenon, the cholera epidemic, slower economic growth and reduced external support.

15. In a year in which donor aid and the use of Government coordination methods had declined, the Group was pleased that, in recent months, the Government and partners had worked together to revitalize the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti. In 2016, the Group had focused on the health care sector in light of the cholera epidemic. Progress had been made in combating malaria, maternal death and HIV/AIDS; however, there were new threats, such as the Chikungunya and Zika viruses. The report noted that too few Haitians had benefited from improved health conditions and the provision of clean water, and underlined the role that the United Nations and other development partners should play to eradicate waterborne diseases.

16. The Group had welcomed the fruitful collaboration between the United Nations and the Organization of American States in the area of civil status, which was becoming key to the elimination of marginalization. The Group encouraged dialogue between the Governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In the report, the planning underway to entrust the United Nations country team with part of the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), particularly on matters related to rule of law and governance, had been welcomed. Increased collaboration with Haitian civil society had been recommended, in order to boost the development potential of Haiti, take advantage of local knowledge and empower Haitians.

17. The establishment of links between humanitarian interventions and longer-term development plans was a key theme of 2016, with a view to reducing the number of crises to a minimum. The Group called for greater international mobilization of support for the Humanitarian Response Plan in light of increasing needs. The issues of displaced persons, migrants from the Dominican Republic, the cholera epidemic and natural disasters must be addressed. In order to build capacity, agriculture, energy, manufacturing and tourism required special attention; political uncertainties had unfortunately diverted the focus away from those employment-generating sectors.

18. **Mr. Wahba** (United Nations Resident Coordinator in Haiti) said that the political situation in Haiti was gradually moving towards a resolution: elections would be held on 9 October 2016, the Provisional Electoral Council had made progress in registering candidates and steps were being taken to ensure credible and transparent elections. However, since May 2016 the number of cholera cases had increased because of the rains. Finding adequate financing to respond to that challenge was difficult, forcing some emergency response teams to slow down at a time when they were particularly needed. At the development level, there were two areas of concern: the reduction in spending in health, leading to an ongoing strike in the general hospitals that had lasted almost four months; and the reduction in spending in education, leaving teachers unpaid.

19. The country team was of the view that many if not all of the humanitarian challenges faced by Haiti were due to failures in development: the lack of resilience in the agricultural sector to adapt to climate change; displacement caused by unforeseen weather events; lack of funding; and poor urban planning. Much greater progress could be made with respect to cholera and other waterborne diseases through investment in water, sanitation and hygiene. The country team believed that there was a direct relationship between funding for humanitarian crises and funding for longer-term development. It wished to continue collaborating with the peacekeeping missions and gradually assume certain of their functions having to do with the rule of law, the security sector, community violence reduction and civil affairs.

20. **Mr. Olguín Cigarroa** (Chile) said that Chile was concerned by the negative repercussions of the political situation in Haiti in humanitarian, socioeconomic and development terms. It urged all Haitian actors to redirect the political and electoral process along the relevant institutional channels, so as to send positive signals to the public and the international community. Cooperation programmes must continue and donors must fulfil their development

and humanitarian commitments, in the context of mutual accountability.

21. His Government had implemented and supported various cooperation projects in Haiti, including both triangular and South-South cooperation, in the areas of education, reconstruction, rural development, development of human capital and capacity building for policing. Chile was pleased to note that the reconstruction of the Republic of Chile School — a project that had been the result of a broad alliance including the public sector, private enterprise, academia and civil society — had been completed in March 2016.

22. Chile hoped that the political situation in Haiti would soon return to normal, enabling the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to do its work and contribute to the Council through its reports.

23. **Mr. Saint-Hilaire** (Observer for Haiti) said that his delegation would welcome the inclusion of the note containing written observations submitted by the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti as an annex to its 2016 report (E/2016/76).

24. On 19 July 2016, the Head of State and the Government of Haiti had signed the order inviting the Haitian people to participate in the elections according to the timetable established by the Provisional Electoral Council, officially launching the elections. The first round of the Presidential and senate elections and would take place on 9 October 2016. On the economic and social level, the scaling back of ODA and the drastic reduction of humanitarian assistance were regrettable and discriminated against the vulnerable segments of the population. Assistance to the population, which suffered food insecurity, epidemics and poverty, must not be delayed. The Haitian authorities would welcome a visit by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group to Haiti, which would enable the Group to accurately assess the expectations and considerable needs of the Haitian people.

(e) African countries emerging from conflict (E/2016/71)

25. **Ms. Sandhu-Rojon** (Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of integrated, coherent and coordinated support to South Sudan by the United Nations system (E/2016/71) on behalf of the United Nations country team in South Sudan, said that the report showed that a certain level of optimism had existed before the recent fighting in Juba. However, the continued fragile situation in the country required all actors to balance their assistance between the immediate needs of the many displaced and otherwise vulnerable people and the need to address more fundamental development issues. The country team had acknowledged that it must focus on the medium- to long-term challenges and on future generations through a balanced approach to humanitarian and development assistance.

26. The events of early July 2016 were a stark reminder of the deep cleavages created by decades of conflict and that, despite the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (Peace Agreement), South Sudan was yet again at war with itself. The country team welcomed the relative calm of the situation in Juba and echoed the Secretary-General in saying that the leaders in South Sudan must take decisive action to regain control of the security situation, prevent the spread of violence to other parts of the country and guarantee the safety and security of civilians and United Nations and other personnel, and must genuinely commit to the full implementation of the Peace Agreement.

27. The current conflict had confounded an already dire humanitarian and socioeconomic crisis. The recent fighting had led to a further increase of displaced persons inside South Sudan (currently totalling over 1.6 million) and of refugees in neighbouring countries (at least 26,000 in addition to a caseload of over 600,000 refugees). Looting of the humanitarian warehouses was hindering the response to the over 4.8 million food insecure people. The $1.4 billion Humanitarian Response Plan was only 40 per cent funded. Over 166,000 people were sheltered inside United Nations protection of civilians sites. Human rights violations, which had increased to unprecedented levels in 2015, had been further exacerbated. The current fighting and the sometimes hostile attitude towards the United Nations severely restricted access to many areas and had caused United Nations agencies to reduce staff levels or pause programmes in some areas. Agencies had nevertheless been able to quickly mount the humanitarian response, and the most pressing programmes were prioritized, based on a

programme criticality exercise. The interventions foreseen in the Interim Cooperation Framework for 2016-2017 and the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General remained relevant, but the pace of implementation of the various interventions would vary.

28. Political will to overcome the current conflict and recommit to the implementation of the Peace Agreement was the prerequisite for a return to a path of peace and development. The determination and commitment of the United Nations family to simultaneously address the enormous humanitarian needs that the country faced and promote the longer-term development agenda would continue, despite the setbacks from the resurgence of the conflict in July 2016.

29. **Mr. Grignon** (Chair, United Nations Peacebuilding Commission) said that, during the meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission held on 24 June 2016, the discussion had focused on the nexus between peace and development in view of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the outcome resolutions of the review of the peacebuilding architecture. It had been agreed that comprehensive approaches were needed for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in fragile States and States emerging from conflict.

30. The following lessons could be learned from the past ten years of Peacebuilding Commission engagement with the countries on its agenda: national ownership of the peacebuilding agenda and priorities must be respected by all national stakeholders; countries in transition from conflict required financial, technical and material support from the international community to build a viable, functional State; national and local institutional capacities needed strengthening to run transitions and implement policies, including on sustainable development and sustaining peace; a constitutional review process and an enabling legal framework were crucial; the rule of law, the administration of criminal justice and security institutions needed to be strengthened; the promotion of national reconciliation, healing and forgiveness was crucial to the creation of strong resilient communities and sustaining peace; and cross-border and transnational collaboration was important and had featured prominently in the Peacebuilding Commission strategy of engagement.

31. In Burundi, the Peacebuilding Commission had supported the strengthening of the Burundi Revenue Authority. The Peacebuilding Commission continued to engage countries on its agenda in efforts to combat corruption and in the implementation of inclusive development strategies. In Burundi and Liberia, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund had supported national institutions dealing with land issues, as part of national reconciliation efforts. In Liberia, the Peacebuilding Fund had invested in the establishment and functioning of land coordination centres to support reconciliation efforts. In Burundi, Peacebuilding Commission support to and engagement with the National Commission on Land and other Assets had been a priority of the peacebuilding strategy.

32. A multidimensional approach that went beyond military and security responses and political peace agreements to address the root causes of conflict in affected countries should be taken. In countries undergoing transition, that entailed a comprehensive framework to ensure a completed transition. He cited the example of the special multidimensional character of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group, particularly its peacebuilding aspects and how it shepherded a successful transition in Namibia in 1990. The Council and the Peacebuilding Commission could review good practices in addressing the root causes of conflict, in the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, and how the United Nations development system could integrate sustainable peace into its planning frameworks and activities.

33. **Mr. Park** Jang Ho (Republic of Korea) said that the latest threat of hostilities would have negative repercussions on the path of South Sudan to full recovery and eventual prosperity, and impede the efforts of the Council to shift its approach from an emergency humanitarian aid posture to a long-term development posture. His delegation urged the parties in South Sudan to refrain from further hostilities, to fully implement the Peace Agreement of August 2015 and to trust that the international community and the United Nations system in particular stood ready to render all the financial, technical and material support required to complete the transition of South Sudan out of conflict.

34. **Mr. Aliyu** (Nigeria) said that Nigeria hoped that the international community could identify the main reasons for the frequent occurrence of conflict in South Africa. He also asked what measures the international community would take to resolve the crisis in South Sudan. Given that South Sudan had experience in fighting terrorism and that its neighbours were unstable, Nigeria would like to see stability return to South Sudan in the interest of international peace and security.

35. **Ms. Matthews** (Deputy Director, New York Liaison Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) said that the fresh displacement of persons in the past week would put a further strain on UNHCR resources for the South Sudan operation. UNHCR did not currently have the required resources to provide adequate care to persons in need. Given the current trend, UNHCR anticipated that the number of refugees from South Sudan in neighbouring States could pass the 1 million mark in 2016. The resources requested, including in the revised Regional Refugee Response Plan, were urgently needed. The international community should provide the human and financial resources needed to deliver lifesaving protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons.

36. UNHCR reminded all parties to the fighting in South Sudan of their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law and international criminal law, and urged them to uphold the current ceasefire, take steps to ensure the distinction between military personnel and civilians, and allow civilians to move freely and access places of safety. The security of the civilian population from sexual violence must be guaranteed. The safety and security of humanitarian works, assets and supplies, and full access of humanitarian aid workers to the civilian population in need must be ensured.

37. **Ms. Jorgensen** (Observer for the World Food Programme (WFP)), speaking on behalf of the Rome-based agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP, said that the past two and a half years of fighting, a collapsing economy, high food prices and erratic rainfall had already resulted in a deterioration of the food security situation in South Sudan. The devaluation of the South Sudanese pound had directly affected food prices. The country faced an inflation rate of over 300 per cent, which meant that people who had previously been able to purchase food were no longer able to do so. The most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report indicated that 4.8 million people could currently be facing emergency levels of food insecurity, an increase of 1 million compared to the number of food insecure people in April 2015. Malnutrition had reached catastrophic proportions in parts of Unity State, with global acute malnutrition rates in some places above 30 per cent.

38. Renewed conflict rendered the delivery of humanitarian response and longer-term development planning even more challenging. WFP and FAO warehouses had been looted during the recent fighting in Juba. FAO estimated that up to 50 per cent of its fishing and vegetable production inputs had been stolen, with greater losses incurred for agricultural tools and crop seeds for the second planting season.

39. The people of South Sudan needed inclusive and durable peace. The Rome-based agencies and development partners could bridge the humanitarian work with longer-term development assistance, through resilience-building activities and nutrition mainstreaming, which were critical for the livelihood security of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

40. **Ms. Khan** (Observer for the World Health Organization (WHO)) said that many health facilities remained closed in South Sudan and more had been destroyed in Wau following the recent fighting. The economic situation continued to affect and destabilize prices on the market, making the delivery of much-needed health services and humanitarian response a challenge.

41. WHO was supporting the Ministry of Health in strengthening health systems in Wau and other parts of the country, including by providing supplies, rebuilding primary health care and training health workers. WHO was also working closely with the Ministry of Health and partners to boost disease surveillance and treatment efforts and had reinforced its cholera outbreak response capability to prevent the spread of the disease following the recent outbreak. A national cholera task force had been activated and was providing oversight and coordination for the response. With support from partners, WHO had established a cholera treatment centre capable of treating 100 patients at Juba Teaching Hospital. It had also

strengthened comprehensive disease investigation, including through follow-up on persons who might have come into contact with the disease. As a proactive preventative measure, it was conducting an oral cholera vaccination campaign. WHO and partners were supporting social mobilization and community engagement activities, and delivering supplies, including tents and cholera kits.

42. The South Sudan: Humanitarian Response Plan 2016 had requested $110 million in funding, of which only $31.3 million had been received. WHO required $17.5 million of that amount for 2016, of which only $4.3 million had been received. More funding would be required to respond to additional needs arising from the recent crisis.

43. Although WHO was currently focusing on addressing the cholera outbreak and the damage to health services following the fighting, its main goal was to rebuild health services in a resilient and sustainable way.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (*continued*) (E/2016/L.21)

Draft resolution E/2016/L.21: Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

44. **The President** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

45. **Mr. Tatiyapermpoon** (Observer for Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that assistance to least developed countries must be accelerated, including through the relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. With strong support from the international community and coordinated actions, the least developed countries would be able to overcome their structural weaknesses. It was hoped that at least half of the least developed countries would meet the criteria to graduate from the least developed country category by 2020. The Group of 77 and China invited all Member States and relevant stakeholders to provide support to the least developed countries in their implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda in order to make their development gains sustainable, inclusive and meaningful.

46. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council), introducing a technical correction, said that the General Assembly resolution referred to in the third preambular paragraph was resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016.

47. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.21 was adopted.*

48. **Ms. Bajaña** (Observer for Nicaragua) said that, as Nicaragua had chosen not to become a State party to the Paris Agreement, it had strong reservations about the related reference in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution. Nevertheless, in keeping with the spirit of consensus and out of solidarity with least developed countries, it did not object to the adoption of the draft resolution, given the vital importance of implementing the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and renewing global commitments to address the needs of least developed countries. The language of paragraph 9 should nevertheless be treated as exceptional and must not set a precedent for future resolutions.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.